

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-12 (canceled).

13. (Currently amended) A method for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;
- (b) creating a top menu that lists the detected devices for individually selecting each of said devices to activate said controllable function;
- (c) displaying said menu on a display device for a user to individually select each listed device and activate said controllable function; and
- (d) displaying a user interface for a selected device for a user to activate said controllable function.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said menu comprises a web page including, for each detected device, a at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said detected device.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein:

in step (b) creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes ~~at least a device control that is~~ device controls that are associated with a device that is the devices that are detected in step (a), and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical or textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

in step (c) displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including, for each detected device, at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said associated detected device.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein in step (b)(ii) creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with a each detected device identified in the device link file.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of, for each detected device:

associating a logical device name with the detected device; and
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of, for each detected device:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device control.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including, for each detected device, at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein in step (a) detecting devices that are currently connected to the home network further comprises the steps of autonomously detecting devices that are become available as currently powered-on and connected to the home network.

22. (Currently amended) A method for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, the method comprising the steps of:
(a) detecting an active state of devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

(b) creating a top menu that lists the detected devices for individually selecting each of said devices to activate said controllable function;

(c) displaying said menu on a display device for a user to individually select each listed device and activate said controllable function; and

(d) displaying a user interface for each selected device for a user to activate said controllable function.

23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein in step (b) said menu comprises a web page including for each detected device, a at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said detected device.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein:

in step (b) creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes ~~at least a device control that is~~ device controls that are associated with a device that is the devices that are detected in step (a), and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

in step (c) displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including, for each detected device, at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said associated detected device.

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein in step (b)(ii), creating the device link page includes the steps of:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and

creating the device link page including said device control associated with a each detected device identified in the device link file.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein generating the device link file includes the steps of, for each detected device:

associating a logical device name with the detected device; and
storing the logical device name in the device link file.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of, for each detected device:

retrieving a logical device name from the device link file;
storing the logical device name in the device link page; and
converting the logical device name to a device control.

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including, for each detected device, at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 22, wherein in step (a) detecting an active status of devices that are currently connected to the home network further comprises the steps of autonomously detecting an active status of devices that are become available as currently powered-on and connected to the home network.

31. (Currently amended) A home network system for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, comprising:

 a detector that detects devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;

 a menu generator for creating a top menu that lists the detected devices for individually selecting each of said devices to activate said controllable function;

 a browser for displaying said menu on a browser based device for a user to individually select each listed device and activate said controllable function, and for displaying a user interface for a selected device for a user to activate said controllable function.

32. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein said menu comprises a web page including, for each detected device, a at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said detected device.

33. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein:

the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page from the home network, the device link page including ~~at least a device control that is device controls that are associated with a device that is the devices that are detected by the detector, and the menu generator further associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and~~

the browser displays said device link page on the browser based device.

34. (Currently amended) The system of claim 33, wherein said device link page

comprises a web page or an html page including, for each detected device, at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said associated detected device.

35. (Currently amended) The system of claim 33, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and then creating the device link page including said device control associated with a each detected device identified in the device link file.

36. (Currently amended) The system of claim 35, wherein the menu generator creates the device link file by, for each detected device: associating a logical device name with the detected device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

37. (Currently amended) The system of claim 36, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by, for each detected device: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

38. (Currently amended) The system of claim 37, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including, for each detected device, at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

39. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the detector autonomously detects devices that are become available as currently powered-on and connected to the home network.

40. (Currently amended) A home network system for providing an interface for accessing devices that are currently connected to a home network, comprising:
a detector that detects an active state of devices that are currently connected to the home network, said devices having at least one controllable function;
a menu generator that creates a top menu that lists the detected devices for individually selecting said devices to activate said controllable function;
a browser that displays said menu on a browser based device for a user to individually select each listed device and activate said controllable function, and for displaying a user interface for each selected device for a user to activate said controllable function.

41. (Currently amended) The system of claim 40, wherein said menu comprises a web page including, for each detected device, a at least one hypertext link to a web page contained within said detected device.

42. (Currently amended) The system of claim 40, wherein:

the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page, the device link page including ~~at least a device control that is device controls that are associated with a device that is the devices that are~~ detected by the detector, and the menu generator associates a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to graphical to textual information that is contained in the detected device that is associated with the device control; and

the browser displays said device link page on the browser based device.

43. (Currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including, for each detected device, at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said associated detected device.

44. (Currently amended) The system of claim 42, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by: generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the detected devices; and creating the device link page including said device control associated with a each detected device identified in the device link file.

45. (Currently amended) The system of claim 44, wherein the menu generator generates the device link file by, for each detected device: associating a logical device name with the detected device; and storing the logical device name in the device link file.

46. (Currently amended) The system of claim 45, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by, for each detected device: retrieving a logical device name from the device link file; storing the logical device name in the device link page; and converting the logical device name to a device control.

47. (Currently amended) The system of claim 46, wherein said device link page comprises a web page or an html page including, for each detected device, at least one hypertext link to a web page or an html page contained within said detected device.

48. (Currently amended) The system of claim 40, wherein the detector autonomously detects an active status of devices that are become available as currently powered-on and connected to the home network.

Claims 49-76 (canceled).